

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-61 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 26 are amended to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 44, 45, 58 and 59 are in condition for allowance.

II. Specification Objection

The disclosure was objected to because of alleged informalities. In particular, the Patent Office alleged that reference EP 0 668 670 on page 1 of the specification should be EP 0 668 332. Applicants have amended the specification.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 3-13, 24-26, 28-43 and 58-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleged that the claims do contain subject matter described in the specification. In particular, the Patent Office alleged that "wherein the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer" as recited in claims 1 and 26 is not described in the specification. Solely to expedite the prosecution of this application, claims 1 and 26 have been amended to recite that pre-curing of the varnish is initiated by exposure to heat prior to the transfer.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-13, 24-26, 28-43 and 58-61 comply with the written description requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully submitted.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 13, 21, 24-26, 29-35, 37-39, 41, 46, 47, 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 01-202492 ("JP '492") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,294,641 ("Reed"). Claims 3 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,978 ("Hekal"). Claims 22 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,133,723 ("Howard"). Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,391,247 ("Kamen") and U.S. Patent No. 1,124,869 ("Davis").

As discussed in detail in the Amendment filed on May 2, 2005, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-13, 24-26, 28-43 and 58-61 are patentable over JP '492, Reed, Kamen and/ or Davis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-61 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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